

Panel 2 Introduction

By Dr. Robert M. Engler, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center

I'm Bob Engler. I've got the pleasure of hosting the second of several panel discussions. We're planning to answer all the environmental questions of Dr. Hochstein and those additional questions that were referred.

The title, Comparative Assessment of Environmental Impacts elicits a wide range of issues. We are pleased to have an esteemed panel representing the public sector, government, and international views. And I will introduce each one separately at their time to speak.

My role in PIANC is the Chairman of PIANC's International Environmental Commission. And my real job is Senior Scientist for Environmental, for the Army Corps of Engineers. I am located at the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg.

Assistant Secretary, Tom Wakeman who you met yesterday, Tom is the dredging czar for the Port of New York and New Jersey.

MR. WAKEMAN: You know what they did to all the czars, don't you?

MR. ENGLER: Back to our subject area. Water resource managers, users, and regulators we work under a huge array of local, national, regional environmental rules many among countries. Moreover, there are and global laws, regulations, criteria, and standards that more often than not conflict with one another.

That is to say each set of laws and regs protect their medium (land versus aquatics versus the atmosphere) and often do not give any consideration to the medium they're not protecting.

We as water resource managers also use the land. Yet, we're constrained to do things on the land. When we use the water, we're constrained. When we use the atmosphere we're constrained.

The goal of this session is to look at these environmental constraints in a comparative sense.

As was described in the previous session, we're fully convinced as to how important water resource transportation is.

